Contract with M|s. Whitehead-Moto Fides for supply of torpedoes to the Indian Navy

1679. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any contract with M/s Whitehead-Moto Fides, an Italian firm for the supply of torpedoes to Indian Navy whereas the said firm had been blacklisted by the then Defence Minister in 1983; and

(b) if so, the reasons of black-listing and also of giving them a contract now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Government have not presently entered into any fresh contracts with M/s Whitehead-Moto Fides of Italy. Some earlier contracts for the supply of torpedoes and spares to the Indian Navy exist. This firm has not been blacklisted by the Ministry of Defence.

Bofors kickbacks

1680. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been attempts to cover-up the Bofors kick-backs at political level, and also through bureaucracy; and

(b) what are the findings of investigations into this aspect along with the names of persons so involved and the action taken so far or proposed to be taken against each such guilty person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The C.B.I. lodged an FIR on 22-1-1990, on the basis of which it would be investigating all aspects of the matter, including any attempted cover up by public servants. The investigations are on going and no conclusions have so far emerged.

Inclusion of Sanskrit Grammer in Computer Technology

1681. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanskrit is considered to be more suitable for computer's working on artificial intelligence and other areas; and

(b) if so, whether knowledge of Sanskrit grammar would help computer scientists in making softwares, if so, whether the study of Sanskrit grammar would be included in the curriculum of science and technology especially for computer technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY O HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) A project on investigation the use of Sanskrit language for natural language processing has been initiated at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune in March, 1989. The suitability of Sanskrit for Computer working on artificial intelligence and other areas depends on the results of this work.

Harassment of women employees of Gandhi Samiti and Gandhi Darshan

1682. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any communication from employees of

Gandhi Samiti and Gandhi Darshan regarding harassment faced by women employees; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON) : (a) No communication has been received from the organisation as named in the Question. However, representation from employees of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti has been received.

(b) The matter is being looked into for appropriate action.

Production of 155mm Howitzers

1683. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a top level team from Bofors, which visited New Delhi in July last to negotiate the terms for production of 155mm howitzers, has since completed its task;

(b) whether during the negotiations any talks were also held to seek a part of kick-back money; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) The discussions with the Bofors team which visited India in July-August 1989 were on issues relating to the Supply Contract and Licence Agreement, including the recovery of the amount paid by them in respect of the Supply Contract. However, the negotiations were inconclusive.

Manufacture of arms by India

1684. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the rank occupied by India in the Third World Countries in manufacturing arms; and

(b) what are the items of defence equipments in which India has become self-sufficient and the items in which it is still dependent on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA) : (a) It is not possible to state with any degree of certainty the rank occupied by India in the Third World Countries in the manufacture of Arms. There are no positional yardsticks to compare Indian defence production on efforts related to its threat perception, with that of other countries.

(b) The country is self-sufficient in the production of Small Arms and Ammunitions; Tanks; Field Guns and their ammunitions; Ordnance Equipments; optical devices and clothing etc. The country is importing certain Missiles and Rockets till their production is established.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

Swiss Bank Accounts

1685. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Statesman of the 28th January, 1990 under the caption "Swiss Banks no longer Ali Baba caves"; if so, what are the details of amounts kept in the Swiss accounts; and